



**AVAST, ME HEARTIES!** What once was a goofy idea celebrated by a handful o' buckos has turned into a global phenomenon. International Talk Like a Pirate Day - September 19 - celebrates t' Golden Age o' Pirates. Smartly, me lass! Visit [talklikeapirate.com](http://talklikeapirate.com) for more piratey fun.



# GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • SEPTEMBER 2016



## \$472,671 GRANT PAVES WAY FOR THREE PROJECTS

Three road construction projects submitted for funding have qualified under the state's new matching grant initiative.

Roadwork will begin in 2017 and include sections of Ridge Road, 45th Avenue and Johnston Street.

Public Works Director John Bach said he was happy to see the state would match \$472,671 in funds to complete the projects.

"The Community Crossing Matching Grant program is brand new this year," Bach said. "It was created by the General Assembly to help communities fund road projects, which is always a challenge."

Bach said Highland requested only the amount town leaders knew they could successfully match.

"It would have been great to qualify for the \$1 million maximum from the state," he said. "We plan to look for local matching funds for a few new projects each year."

Participating communities assessed all streets — ranking them from 1 (most in need of reconstruction) to 5 (new condition).

### 2017 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Slated for 2017:

- ✓ Ridge Road resurfacing from Fifth to just west of Cline Avenue
- ✓ 45th Avenue reconstruction from Kennedy to Fifth
- ✓ Johnston Street from Ridge to Highway

### MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The legislation limits matching grant requests to \$1 million per town, city or county per year.

In all, the Indiana Department of Transportation made \$160 million available for road improvements to launch the program. Eventually, the state will divvy out \$1.2 billion for road and bridge preservation.

### CALLING ALL SCULPTORS!

Highland is looking for local artists interested in completing a public outdoor sculpture in downtown Highland. The selected artist will receive a \$500 stipend, funded by a grant received from the Northwest Indiana Forum. Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) to review the entire Public Sculpture Call for Art prior to submitting a proposal.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Interested artists are invited to submit up to three JPGs of sketches or photos of their sculpture, including proposed dimensions, along with a current bio, to [lyrskamp@highland.in.gov](mailto:lyrskamp@highland.in.gov) by **SEPTEMBER 16**.

### SUPPORT OPERATION SOS

Operation SOS — Support Our Service members — needs donations of items and cash to send cheer boxes to soldiers overseas during the holidays.

Donated items may be dropped off at Town Hall, Lincoln Community Center and Miles Bookstore on Jewett.

Make checks payable to: Operation SOS, PO Box 9308, Highland, IN 46322.

**INFO:** Visit [operationsosnwi.com](http://operationsosnwi.com) or call Colleen Aguirre at (219) 923-5799.

### NEW POLLING PLACE

Attention Highland voters in Precinct 5: You have a new polling place.

If you previously voted at Arc Bridges, 9600 Kennedy Ave., your polling location has been moved to Fire Station #2, 2647-45th Avenue. The change takes effect for the presidential election **NOVEMBER 8**.



### ... TOWN TICKER ...

**HIGHLAND PUBLIC WORKS** is looking for an entry-level employee who can operate a front-end loader, jet truck/sewer rodder, black top roller, trucks and other light and heavy equipment. Applications are available at the Department, 8001 Kennedy Avenue. **INFO:** Call (219) 972-5083

## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Highland Police Department is accepting applications for its next Citizens Police Academy.

Applicants must be at least 18 and a Highland resident or the owner or employee of a business in town.

The academy consists of a nine-week program that gives the public a working knowledge of police work. Classes are held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning **SEPTEMBER 13**.

**APPLICATIONS:** Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) to download an application.

**QUESTIONS?** Please call Deputy Cmdr. John Banasiak or Sgt. Chris Balbo at the HPD (219) 838-3184.

## CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about the latest trends in crime at this month's crime watch meeting.

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 14**

**WHERE:** HPD community room

**INFO:** Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email [sanderson@highland.in.gov](mailto:sanderson@highland.in.gov).



### WARD 1

**BERNIE ZEMEN** - president  
[bzemen@comcast.net](mailto:bzemen@comcast.net)  
(219) 781-1056



### WARD 2

**MARK HERAK**  
[mherak@highland.in.gov](mailto:mherak@highland.in.gov)  
(219) 838-0126



### WARD 3

**DAN VASSAR** - vice president  
[dvassar@highland.in.gov](mailto:dvassar@highland.in.gov)  
(219) 924-1945



### WARD 4

**STEVEN WAGNER**  
[swagner@highland.in.gov](mailto:swagner@highland.in.gov)  
(219) 718-3199



### WARD 5

**KONNIE KUIPER**  
[kkuiper@highland.in.gov](mailto:kkuiper@highland.in.gov)  
(219) 924-7820

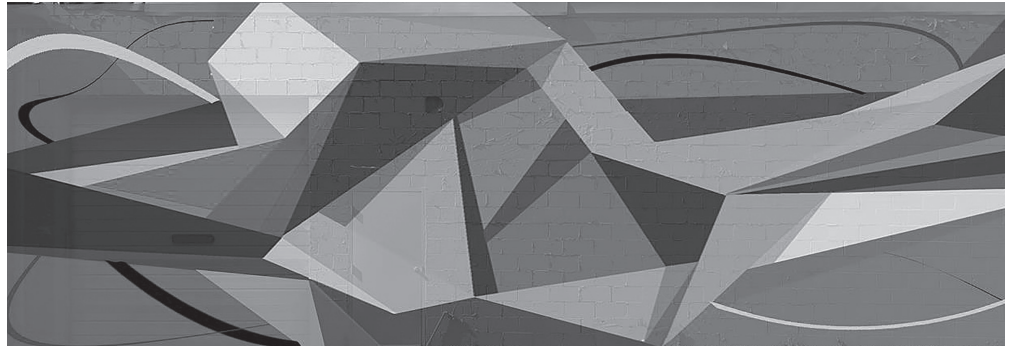
## NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:  
[gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com)

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## HIGHLAND ARTIST SELECTED TO PAINT COLORFUL MURAL ON JEWETT STREET

The new mural on Jewett will feature shades of blues and teals with splashes of poppy and burnt orange in a decidedly abstract style.

Highland resident Liz Mares was selected to be the muralist from a field that included a dozen local fine artists.

"I was ecstatic the Highland Redevelopment Commission selected my entry," she said.

A professional artist for the last six years, Mares studied fine arts in college with a plan to work as a photographer until she found her calling in acrylic abstracts painted on a variety of mediums. This will be the Hammond native's second wall mural. Some of her other pieces painted on canvas and wood are in the hands of private collectors around the country.

Highland's mural will be prepped by Public Works early this month. Painting the mural, which will be located just east of Miles Books, will take about four days. The project is expected to be complete by Sept. 28.

Mares will be paid from the proceeds of a \$500 Legacy Foundation grant, which Highland won by virtue of the number of votes the project received. The Redevelopment Commission is contributing \$400 for supplies.

"I am honored to be chosen for this exciting project, which will serve as a springboard for other locally created public art in town," she said. "Highland is home to many talented artists who are just as excited as I am about the town's increasing interest in the arts." 🐦

## MAPLES INFECTED WITH TAR SPOT DISEASE

Alarmed homeowners are reporting black spots on the leaves of maple trees, signaling an infection known as Tar Spot.

Unlike the emerald ash borer, which has devastated the ash tree population, Tar Spot disease does not require treatment.

"We started getting calls from concerned residents regarding the health of their maple trees," Public Works Director John Bach said. "Although experts don't recommend treatment, they do suggest that homeowners bag the fallen leaves, because dead leaves transfer the fungus to new trees in the spring."

Most leaves infected with Tar Spot have already fallen from trees. "These are the leaves clogging our catch basins," he said. "I want to thank residents who have helped us by keeping the basins in front of their homes free of leaves." 🐦

### SEEING SPOTS?

"It's been a really bad year for tar spot disease," said Nikky Witkowski of the Purdue Cooperative Extension office in Lake County.

"This disease is here almost every year," she said. "Just like when we get a cold, it knocks us down a little bit, but we recover."

Witkowski says residents do not have to treat their trees because it essentially won't make a difference. "They will thrive and survive."

The first symptoms of infection by a tar spot fungus usually show up in mid-June as small, pale yellow spots. The spots enlarge and their yellow color intensifies as the season progresses. A black spot usually develops in each yellow spot by mid-July to early August.

**QUESTIONS?** If you are still concerned about the health of your maple tree, please call Nikky Witkowski at the Purdue Cooperative Extension Lake County office at (219) 755-3240 or email [nikky@purdue.edu](mailto:nikky@purdue.edu).



A freshly paved trail and parking lot welcome visitors to Highland's Heron Rookery. The trails and rookery are open year-round to all schools, Girl and Boy Scout troops, bird watchers and nature lovers. Benches and fixed binoculars are available for your viewing pleasure. [Josh Carlascio photos]

## PAVED TRAIL, PARKING AREA PROVIDE EASY ACCESSIBILITY TO HERON ROOKERY

Highland's Heron Rookery is awash in activity of the avian variety.

While great blue heron chicks hone their flying and hunting skills, egret nestlings that appear in the marsh are even more snowy white than their majestic parents. Owls, a host of native and migratory birds, even the occasional eagle are spotted by those patient enough to watch the comings and goings of life on the marsh.

More than two years after Highland Main Street began looking to increase accessibility to the rookery trail, which sits atop a berm on the south side of the Little Calumet River, a paved access trail and parking area are now complete.

"The rookery is a treasure everyone, regardless of mobility, may now be able to experience," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "The paving by the Little Calumet River Basin Commission made it all possible." 🐦



### RIBBON-CUTTING ...

Bring a pair of binoculars and head east along the Little Calumet River Levee or the Erie Lakawanna Trail until you reach Liable Road to enjoy spectacular views of beautiful birds, ducks, geese and water-loving mammals.

Highland Main Street and town leaders will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 28** to officially unveil the new features.

**INFO:** [highland.in.gov/rookery](http://highland.in.gov/rookery)

### STREET LIGHTS OUT?

If the street light in your neighborhood is working only intermittently or has burned out altogether, you need to contact NIPSCO, not the town.

Public Works Director John Bach said the town would love to be able to help, but can't because the street lights belong to NIPSCO. To report a malfunctioning light, go to [nipsco.com/StreetlightOut](http://nipsco.com/StreetlightOut) or call (800) 464-7726.

**DECORATIVE LIGHTING?** Highland subdivisions that have decorative lighting — such as Arbor Hill, Seeberger and Park Place — should call Highland Public Works at (219) 972-5083.

### OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Support our local businesses and musicians at the weekly outdoor street market featuring fresh produce, artisanal goods as well as gourmet foods.

#### ENTERTAINMENT:

Sept. 10: Dennis, Andrew & Michelle

Sept. 17: Gerry Hundt

Sept. 24: Eric Brumley

Oct. 1: Eddie Covarrubias

Oct. 8: David Blixt Duo

Oct. 1: Ronn Barany

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org).

### YOUTH CHORUS AUDITIONS

Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus invites singers aged 6-18 to audition by appointment for our fall season.

NIYC rehearses Monday evenings beginning **SEPTEMBER 12** at Lincoln Center in preparation for two concerts, one in December and one in May. The chorus also participates in local festivals, musical theatre and liturgical activities.

**INFO:** For more info or to schedule an audition, contact Dr. Bonita Neff at (219) 629-5448 or [bdneff@iun.edu](mailto:bdneff@iun.edu).

## HIGHLAND SEEKING VENDORS, MUSICIANS FOR FESTIVAL OF THE TRAIL

Applications are being accepted for artists, musicians and vendors who would like to participate in Festival of the Trail.

Redevelopment Commission Assistant Lance Ryskamp said plans are in the works to expand events throughout the downtown and along the bike trail.

This year's festival coincides with the last Outdoor Street Market of the season, as

well as the Fire Department's open house.

The festival features music, local artists and vendors. Ryskamp says plans are underway to offer food specials at several downtown restaurants as well as sidewalk sales by participating businesses.

**APPLICATIONS:** Download an application at [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) or email Lance Ryskamp at [lryskamp@highland.in.gov](mailto:lryskamp@highland.in.gov).

### IF YOU GO ...

This year's festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **OCTOBER 15** in the Municipal Lot, at the southwest corner of Highway and Kennedy, and along the bike trail. Deadline for business coupons and vendor applications is **SEPTEMBER 16**.

**INFO:** Call the Redevelopment Commission office at (219) 972-7598 or email Lance Ryskamp at [lryskamp@highland.in.gov](mailto:lryskamp@highland.in.gov).

### ABSTRACT PAINTING

Paint your own 16 x 20 canvas. This is a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. Saturday, **SEPT. 24**  
**FEE:** \$25 residents/\$30 nonresidents

### INTRO TO PARTY BRIDGE

For those interested in learning the game of Bridge. No supplies or previous experience necessary. Come as you are!

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, **SEPT. 6 - OCT. 11**  
**FEE:** \$36 residents/\$40 nonresidents

### KIDDIE TREAT DECORATING

Kids age 5-15 will learn how to make and decorate ice cream and cookies using basic decorating techniques from Cathy of Cookielicious Bakery. Each student will take home their creations. Supplies included.

**WHEN:** 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, **SEPT. 13**  
**FEE:** \$15 residents/\$18 nonresidents

# New!

### FITNESS PROGRAMS

Check out our new fall fitness programs at Lincoln Fitness Center:

#### PICKLEBALL

Open to players age 15 and up.

**WHEN:** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Fridays, 3-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays  
**FEE:** \$5 drop-in or \$63 for 18-visit punch card. Nets are also available for private rentals for \$20 per hour, per court availability.

#### BARRE FITNESS

Lift, lengthen and define your body with this ballet-inspired workout.

**WHEN:** 5-5:55 p.m. Thursdays, **SEPT. 8-29**  
**FEE:** \$22 residents/\$24 nonresidents

#### ESSENTRICS

Stretch and strengthen with ballet movements, Tai Chi and physiotherapy exercise.

**WHEN:** 5-5:55 p.m. Wednesdays, **SEPT. 7-28**  
**FEE:** \$22 residents/\$24 nonresidents

#### ZUMBA GOLD

Seniors salsa, tango and meringue their way through this fun exercise class.

**WHEN:** 4-4:45 p.m. Thursdays, **SEPT. 8-29**  
**FEE:** \$18 residents/\$20 nonresidents

#### ZUMBA GOLD CHAIR

This modified class is perfect for anyone with mobility issues.

**WHEN:** 4:15-4:45 p.m. Wednesdays, **SEPT. 7-28**  
**FEE:** \$12 residents/\$14 nonresidents

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about these and other Lincoln Community Center programs, please visit [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or call (219) 838-0114.

# Highland's 5th annual ... OKTOBERFEST

The Highland Community Foundation's 5th Oktoberfest – from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 6 – will feature a raffle, auction, live entertainment, craft beers, wines and all of the fixings for a true Munich-style feast. Donations help fund public art, trees and bike trails in addition to cultural initiatives.

## OCTOBER 6

*Lincoln Center  
Banquet Hall*



### THE FOOD ...

Sample traditional German and Bavarian fare including Wiener Schnitzel, German potato salad, Sauerbraten, Spaetzel, Bratwurst, hot pretzels with mustard and delicious apple strudel.

### THE DRINKS ...

Craft beer and German wine will round out the evening.

### THE MUSIC ...

The night's entertainment will feature the authentic Die Musikmeisters German Band.

### THE INFO ...

Tickets are \$85 per person or \$150 couple (\$50 per ticket is tax deductible). To purchase tickets, donate a raffle item, select a donor recognition opportunity or acquire an engraved brick paver installation at the Memorial Plaza, call Rich at (312) 550-4478 or email [runderkofler76@comcast.net](mailto:runderkofler76@comcast.net).

